

I have been surprised to find so much to tell after all that has already been written on these islands, and as I shall probably be here for another year, it is possible that I may have something more to say on the islands of Lanzaote and Hierro, to which I am shortly going.

XLVI.—*On the Ornithology of the Valleys of Andorra and the Upper Ariège, and other Contributions to the Avifauna of the Eastern Pyrenees.* By W. EAGLE CLARKE, F.L.S., &c.

THE birds of the Republic of Andorra and of the Department of Ariège not having come within the scope of the investigations of Mr. Howard Saunders (*Ibis*, 1884, pp. 365–392) and Mr. James Backhouse, Jr. (*Zoologist*, 1884, and *Ibis*, 1887, pp. 66–74),—the only members of the B. O. U. who appear to have devoted special attention to the Pyrenees—it is, perhaps, unnecessary to tender any apology for offering to the brotherhood of ‘The Ibis’ this slight contribution to the Pyrenean Avifauna. Indeed, so far as the remote and little-visited Valley of Andorra is concerned, it is believed that its birds are here treated of for the first time.

The ornithological reconnaissance here recorded was planned by Mr. Backhouse and the writer; but when all was satisfactorily arranged, my experienced friend was most unfortunately, and much to our mutual regret and disappointment, compelled to desert me. I, however, obtained a congenial companion in my friend Mr. Basil Carter, of Masham, Yorkshire, a young and promising ornithologist, whose valuable cooperation it affords me much pleasure to acknowledge.

We arrived at Ax, our headquarters in the Upper Ariège, on the morning of the 12th of May of the present year. Ax is an extremely pleasant little town in the very heart of the French Pyrenees, and situated at the head of the main valley of the River Ariège, which here trifurcates, the valley of the Upper Ariège extending due south, that of the River

Ariège south-east, and that of the River de la Lauze due east. Thus three streams unite in the town to form a fine river, which, at the time of our sojourn, was a brawling torrent, swollen by the melting snows. Beneath Ax are a series of subterranean caldrons, varying much in the chemical constituents of their waters and in their temperature, which ranges from 76° to 113° Fahrenheit; and these, together with surrounding beautiful scenery, have combined to make the town a much frequented, but not fashionable, watering-place and summer resort. The valley here is 2300 feet in elevation, is narrow, and shut in by high mountains, the lower slopes of which are clothed with woodlands of oak and other deciduous trees, coppice or brushwood. Above these, on the west and south-west, is a beech-region, followed at 4500 feet by dark pine-forests, which contrast grandly with the perpetual snows that succeed and crown them, and with the beautiful delicate green of the beeches below. On the east side the woodlands are succeeded by pasture-lands, characteristic of their limestone formation.

We devoted a few days to an investigation of this beautiful district. Birds were fairly numerous in the woodlands at the lower elevations, and although nothing of special importance was noted, yet it was interesting to observe that several species here found the limit to their high Pyrenean range. The Magpie, so ubiquitously and abundantly observed on the journey, was very scarce and not observed in the higher woodlands or the upper valleys, though they afford suitable haunts. The same was noted with regard to the Blackbird, Chiffchaff, Willow Wren, Long-tailed Titmouse, Great Titmouse, Blue Titmouse, Woodchat Shrike, Creeper, Tree Pipit, Greenfinch, Sparrow, Bullfinch, Green Woodpecker, Wryneck, Turtle Dove, and Common Sandpiper. The beech-region did not shelter many species, and the finding in it at 4150 feet of a nest of the Song Thrush, a *rara avis* here in the summer, must rank as a distinct success. The pine-forests, which were very extensive, were equally disappointing. Most ornithologists are aware that to accomplish even a little in such a habitat, a considerable amount of ground must be

covered. Here even this was denied us, for the forests were under deep snow, and the several expeditions, carried out under most laborious conditions, cannot be regarded as far removed from failures, for our chief finds were the breeding of the Carrion Crow and the Ring Dove—more Pyrenean summer rarities—while the recording of the altitudinal range of various common species, including the Robin, the Cuckoo, the Creeper, Chaffinch, and Coal Titmouse, in the snow-clad pine-forest above 5000 feet may, perhaps, be considered useful work.

A day was spent at Tarascon, seventeen miles below Ax, where the valley proved to be under high cultivation, orchards and vineyards occupying the lower lands, followed by rich meadows. Here several species were more numerous represented than at Ax, but nothing worthy of note was observed.

Two visits were paid to the uppermost portion of the valley of the Ariège. Above Ax the valley narrows considerably, and before the village of Merens is reached the mountains close in and form a short but narrow gorge with towering cliffs, affording just sufficient room for the river and the road. Just beyond this, and north of the village, the road passes under a stupendous precipice. Here we first made the acquaintance of the Crag Martin, which found many suitable nesting-sites in the numerous recesses in its rocky face. A few Choughs and Falcons were also observed here, and far above its pine-clad and snowy summit soared several large Eagles. Above Merens the valley becomes more uninteresting. Trees become scarce, the mountain-sides are strewn with innumerable boulders, and bird-life becomes poorly represented. The Jay, however, ascends the valley thus far, and here the Wheatear was first seen. At the head of this valley or basin, the great dividing mountains gather closely around the last village of France, Hospitalet, a really miserable place, situated, as it were, on the very verge of the possibility of human existence. Over 4600 feet above the sea, overshadowed on the south, east, and west by peaks or ridges never free from snow, and open only to the north, Hospitalet presents a sort of frost-bitten appearance which is difficult to describe. On the 19th

of May this village still wore a wintry aspect, for the few trees in the valley were leafless and the snow was everywhere close at hand. Indeed, save for the presence of a few gay alpine flowers, it was difficult to realize that one was in the south of Europe, and that the season was not what it seemed. Nor does the native contribute anything to make the place more genial, for the narrow crooked passages which pass for streets are ankle-deep in manure, or in filth cast from the windows of the bordering houses so frequently as to render wading through these "rotten rows" rather nervous work. Of birds, the feature of this place was the extraordinary abundance of the Hedge Accentor. We never before saw this bird in numbers anything approaching those in which it was here. It was also simply everywhere, from the village and its environs up to the highest point reached in our investigations on the mountains, 6100 feet, where its cheery song was heard, and its flitting form noted on all the patches of rhododendron-scrub or of barren rocks free from snow. The other species which push their way thus far up this higher Pyrenean valley are the Martin, Whinchat, Yellow Bunting, and Water Pipit, which are common, the latter especially so in the moist meadows by the river-side; the Blackstart, Grey Linnet, Swallow, Dipper, Grey Wagtail, Chaffinch, and Red-breast were also observed, though in less numbers; whilst the Kestrel, Missel Thrush, and Wren ascend the mountains to at least 6000 feet.

One of the main objects for visiting Hospitalet was to arrange, if possible, for a guide and mules to take us over the main chain into Andorra—25 miles distant—which can be accomplished from this village by two passes, the Port de Framiquel and the Port de Saldeu, both at little over 8200 feet. On making known our desire to him who had been recommended to us as a guide, and to the landlord of the little auberge, we were at once informed that such a journey was quite impossible, both exclaiming "Neige, beaucoup de neige!" so energetically and repeatedly that there seemed no other course open to us but to abandon our plans. It was explained to us that the passes are not sufficiently free from

snow to allow mules to traverse them until July, and that at the present time the snow lay both deep and soft from near the foot of the pass to its summit, rendering the journey, which is both difficult and long under most favourable circumstances, now quite impossible. Our would-be, but not disinterested, advisers suggested the long and costly journey, requiring a number of mules, *vid* Bourg-Madame and the Spanish towns of Puycerda and Urgel, and thus to approach Andorra from the south—a recommendation which we declined, and, much disappointed, we returned to Ax.

A day or two after we heard that a small party of Andorreans had crossed the mountains on foot by the Port de Saldeu, and on the receipt of this news we at once posted to Hospitalet in the hope that we might be able to accomplish a similar journey. After some conversation, during which the now familiar words “*Neige, beaucoup de neige*” were frequently introduced, perhaps to forewarn us, all was satisfactorily arranged for a start on the following morning. At 5 A.M. on the 20th of May, accompanied by our guide Minguel, and carrying a minimum amount of luggage for a week’s sojourn, including guns and cartridges, we set out for Andorra. Our route at first lay through high pasture-lands covered here and there by great sheets of snow. At 6000 feet the snow from the high enclosing mountains crossed the narrow valley, and the river, which we had hitherto been following, was lost under its mantle. All was now snow, except where here and there a high rock cropped out from beneath and formed a welcome object on which to cast and rest the eyes from the brilliantly sunlit and dazzling surroundings. Plodding along slowly with the snow up to our knees, but following as much as possible the track of the Andorreans, we reached the summit of the Port de Saldeu, 8202 feet, in good form, at 9.45 A.M. Bird-life was not absent from this high snow-clad valley. The Dipper was observed on the river’s margin until its waters “took the snow.” The Hedge Accentor was the most abundant species, and occurred, along with the Black Redstart and Water Pipit, on every rock that peeped from under the snow, but ceasing when

these ceased at 7100 feet. At the very summit of the pass we saw a pair of Sky Larks, the first we had seen in the Pyrenees, and the male soon after hovered above and poured forth his welcome song over the snow as blithely as we ever heard it over an English meadow. On the few bare wind-swept patches were a few Wheatears and Water Pipits. A Common Martin, too, had ventured thus far in search of food, and was busily engaged skimming the snow. The scene around us was of the grandest possible description. On every side were the numerous "pics," many of them over 10,000 feet, and their little-less-lofty connecting-ridges, which shut in so very effectually this little Republic of Andorra from the outside world. This high enclosing rim and its flanks, as seen from this stand-point, were entirely mantled with glistening snow, and presented a strikingly beautiful panorama, which we were fortunate in seeing under most favourable conditions, the day being brilliantly fine and the deep blue sky without a cloud.

A steep descent brought us to the hamlet of Saldeu, the most north-westerly in the Republic, near the head of its main valley, 6000 feet in altitude, and a miserable little place, still almost entirely surrounded by snow.

Before proceeding further it may be well to make a few general remarks on this interesting country. The Republic of Andorra may be said to consist of an isolated valley in the heart of the Pyrenees, since it is cut off from France on the one hand and Spain on the other by a rim of lofty mountains, ranging in altitude from 8000 to 10,000 feet, and is approached on all sides by mule-paths only. It comprises a main valley—the valley of the River Valira—and several side valleys, two of which are of some importance, namely those of Urdino and Escaldas, and have led to Andorra being described as consisting of three valleys, and also to its being known in France as "*Les Vallées.*" Not only, however, is this little State hemmed in by the Pyrenees, but lofty mountains everywhere dominate its interior, rendering it entirely an alpine region intersected by a few narrow valleys or ravines, and it has been said of it, on the highest authority*,

* The Hon James Erskine Murray.

that it is one of the wildest districts to be found in the whole chain. It is compact in form, has an area of about 600 square miles, and its greatest length from north to south is 17 miles, while it is about the same in width from east to west.

The complete isolation enjoyed by Andorra has not been without most remarkable results. Indeed, there is much that savours of the enigmatical and is without historical parallel in its status and relationships. Thus it is physically a part of Spain, since it is within the watershed of the Ebro; yet, politically, though its people are Catalans, and therefore of an Iberian race, the influence of France is paramount, and is sought and desired; while ecclesiastically it is under the sway of His Highness the Prince-Bishop of Urgel. Although an absolute cypher on the face of Europe, forgotten by or unknown to most, this insignificant Peasant-Commune can boast of being the oldest free republic in existence, since it has preserved its independence for twelve long centuries; disturbed, no doubt, but uninfluenced and unaffected by the vicissitudes of fortune experienced by its, in this respect, less favoured but powerful neighbours. Governed by unwritten laws, unfettered by national debt, almost untaxed and free from crime, without an army, a steam-engine, or a carriage-road, Andorra is indeed the "*curiosité politique*" which the great Napoleon is said to have called it, and which was possibly the reason that induced him to allow it to remain undisturbed.

The Andorreans are below the middle height, and we saw but few men or women possessing claims to good looks. Their general occupation is pastoral, and their flocks comprise sheep, goats, cattle, and mules. They are certainly an industrious race, and have pushed their cultivated patches far up the mountain-sides, and, above Andorra town, have irrigated them by an effective and extensive system of conduits furnished with a sluice at each highland allotment. The women largely attend to all matters of cultivation, while the men, all hardy and experienced mountaineers, follow the more congenial and profitable profession of the contrabandier—a calling for which the nature and geographical position of their country is most admirably adapted. Matches and

embroidered scarves, both subject to high protective tariffs in France, are the chief articles of the smuggling trade, and both are readily obtained from Spain.

To return to our narrative. We were now in the extreme north-west portion of the main valley of Andorra, which here extends in a south-west direction for a couple of miles, when the mountains close in. This uppermost basin varies in altitude from 6000 feet at Saldeu, its only hamlet, to 5500 feet where the valley narrows. Such portions of it as are productive consist of pasture; the high flanking mountains are, for the most part, barren, but those on the north-east side are clothed with pine-forest, which at the time of our visit was impassable, deep snow clothing it down to the river's margin. The long defile which succeeds affords much wild and romantic scenery. The river boils through a narrow rocky course, steep cliffs wall in the stream and its bordering mule-track, several fine waterfalls pour down the mountain-sides, while on the grassy slopes beautiful alpine flowers and a profusion of gay butterflies add to its many charms. This passed, we found ourselves at Canillo, the second town of importance in the Republic, and at the head of the second basin of the series into which the valley of the Valira may be said to be divided. It is a small village situated among rich arable and pasture-lands, and just below it, on the west side of the river, a noble cliff forms a remarkable feature in the landscape. This section of the valley lies between about 4000 to 5000 feet in altitude, and the few woods that clothe its mountains are at a considerable elevation. About a mile below Canillo the fringing mountains again approach each other, and the valley becomes narrow and steep, with coppice-growth not unfrequent on its slopes. It widens out a little at the hamlet of Encamp, but again closes in above Escaldas, which is at the head of the main basin of the valley. This main basin of the Republic runs due north and south, and is, in comparison with the others, a fine flat valley—by some it is described as a plain—perhaps nowhere more than half a mile wide and about three miles in length, but possessed of fine pasture-lands and woodlands. Here is situated Andorra

(3100 feet), the chief town, where we arrived at 6 o'clock on the evening of the day we left Hospitalet, after a rough journey of not less than twenty-five miles, entirely performed on foot. The hamlet of Andorra—for it savours of satire to dub it a city—is situated in the widest part of the valley, on its western side, a little above the river, and has a population of about one thousand. Its wretched houses are all jumbled together; indeed, they might have been dropped from above, so delightfully irregular are they and presenting, as they do, all manner of angles to the labyrinth of narrow passages which do duty for streets in this vehicleless country, and which are redolent with every variety of unsavoury smell. The principal building is the Casa del Valle, or parliament-house, in which the Council General meets, an ancient edifice resembling a barn with two small turrets, but evidently little cared for, since it is much dilapidated and the chief resort of the few Sparrows seen in the Republic. But unenchanted as the town may be, its surroundings are of an entirely different character. Below lies a broad valley of rich alluvial land, clothed with hundreds of acres of lovely white narcissus, at the time of our sojourn a mass of bloom, and a fine brawling river. Above, on every side, are snow-capped mountains, some of the flanks of which are scattered with barren rocks or present great naked cliffs; others are clothed with pine-forest, while at lower elevations are shady woodlands. Thus Andorra was not without charms of the highest order, and the contrast between being within and without its walls reminded one that, in some respects at least, it is not in more remote climes only that “man alone is vile.”

To complete the sketch of the features of the main valley (to which and its enclosing mountains our ornithological rambles were entirely confined) it only remains to be said that about three miles below Andorra the mountains again gather together and form a fine defile. Below this is San Julia, the last of the Andorrecan hamlets, and close to the south-western frontier of the territory. It is situated in the last basin of the Valira, is overshadowed by high mountains, and is the lowest land in Andorra, being 3000 feet above the sea.

The avifauna of Andorra is eminently Pyrenean, and possesses, it is believed, no single species peculiar to, or characteristic of, the regions north or south of the great dividing range. The ornis of the valley is not, however, without its peculiarities, which are of a negative character, since they are to be found in the absence of species of wide European range, species which were, without exception, observed by us in the valleys of Ariège. The absentees are the Blackcap, Long-tailed Titmouse, Marsh Titmouse, Tree Pipit, Golden Oriole, Woodchat Shrike, Swallow, Sand Martin, Greenfinch, Bullfinch, Magpie, Swift, Wryneck, and Ring Dove. The absence of some of these is perhaps not remarkable in a country where the lowest lands are 3000 feet in altitude. Some, it is true, may have been overlooked, but it is not thought these *could* account for more than one or two species at the most. The non-presence, however, of such not-to-be-overlooked birds as the Blackcap, Golden Oriole, Swallow, Greenfinch, Bullfinch, Magpie, and Swift, to say nothing of the rest, is worthy of special remark. The following species, among others, were observed in Andorra, but not in the valley of the Ariège, and are mentioned because they have also not been noted for the French Pyrenees by Messrs. Saunders and Backhouse, namely:—the Garden Warbler, Orphean Warbler, Spotted Flycatcher, and Citril Finch. The following may be mentioned as uncommon species:—the Willow Warbler, Orphean Warbler, Great Titmouse, Blue Titmouse, Grey Wagtail, Red-backed Skrike, Pied Flycatcher, Sparrow, Sky Lark, Carrion Crow, and Common Sandpiper.

Perhaps the most interesting of our observations related to the breeding of the Crag Martin (*Cotile rupestris*) under the eaves of the houses in the centre of the town of Andorra. On the day after our arrival we were much surprised to observe several large pale-coloured Martins flying in and about the town. At the time we were somewhat puzzled with this bird, for it appeared, when now seen at close quarters, to be much lighter in colour than the one we had seen so abundantly flying above us on the great cliff between Merens and Ax, and also to have less chestnut in the plumage of its

under surface; but an examination of a skin of *C. rupestris*, on our return, removed all doubts from our minds as to the identity of the bird. Several attempts were made to procure a specimen, but it was found most difficult to avoid covering windows and other undesirable objects with the gun, and several snap-shots at the bird failed. The nests, of which we saw four in the town, were placed, in three instances, about three inches below the eaves on the house-side, the fourth being placed on the side of a beam supporting an overhanging roof, which it was just under. The nests were large structures of mud, quite open at the top, and the one which we managed with some difficulty to reach was lined with feathers; but though the bird was in the nest, and the date was the 22nd of May, yet no eggs were contained in it, much to our disappointment. The other nests were beyond reach, save one, and the owner of the house assured us that it contained no eggs, but would not allow us to ascertain if such was the case. This instance of the breeding of the Crag Martin in the narrow streets of the town of Andorra is, it is thought, a somewhat unusual circumstance, and more especially so as the town is not situated upon, or in the close proximity of, crags or cliffs. There are many suitable nesting-places opposite the town, but cultivated lowlands intervene; and, strange to say, these customary breeding-habitats had but few Crag Martins frequenting them. The bird was also noted in the villages of Escaldas and Encamp, but we did not observe any nests, which might, however, have existed. There were plenty of them on the great cliff at Canillo.

It is perhaps unnecessary here to dilate more on the ornithic features of Andorra, for particulars concerning each species and its range in the Republic are given in the list that concludes this paper. It is enough to say that very generally our experience was a repetition of that on the French side, and that we had to contend with the same great disadvantages in the high pine-forests and on the mountains owing to the snow, which descended to 5800 feet.

Our stay in Andorra was not without its little trials, since residence there means dwelling among the peasants and con-

forming to their mode of life. However, apart from a dearth of cleanliness and its concomitants, we found the Andorreans an independent but inoffensive race, and they allowed us much freedom and every facility that could be desired for the pursuit of birds. Our single unpleasantness, or series of unpleasantnesses, was experienced with him from whom we might naturally have expected at least consideration, not to say protection, namely, our guide and interpreter, whose services we retained when it was found that Catalan alone was understood and spoken by the Andorreans. Minguel, however, had seen too much of the world, and his peasant morals had not been improved thereby. Once an artilleryman in the army of France, he had served in Algeria and Tonquin, and now an ardent smuggler, he, no doubt, thought us fair game for petty plunder. This led him to make out, in his own handwriting, ridiculously exorbitant charges for our accommodation at each of the places—Andorra, Canillo, and Saldeu—at which we stayed. Our protests were invariably contested by our servant, who, it is needless to say, was always on the side of our peasant-host. Finally he refused to accept the remuneration we had arranged to give him in return for his services.

On the 25th of May we left Saldeu—Minguel with his body well wrapped with contraband scarfs and carrying a quantity of matches—crossed the high pass during a severe snow-storm, and reached Ax the same evening.

On the 27th we left Ax for Perpignan—a town situated in a plain at the foot of the extreme Eastern Pyrenees, and close to the Mediterranean. This region presented a great contrast to the one we had just left. In the place of the high mountains and deep valleys was an extensive plain, only a remove above sea-level, and smiling under the extreme of cultivation; instead of snows were the blue waters of the Mediterranean; while the pine, the box, and the juniper were replaced by the vine, the cork-tree, and the ragged thirsty-looking *Cactus*. Our object in visiting this district was to investigate the bird-life of the series of étangs or lakes which on a glance at a map will be seen to extend from Nar-

bonne southwards, along the shores of the Mediterranean, to the foot-hills of the Pyrenees. To the imagination of the ornithologist such a series of low-lying lagoons, in such a latitude, present an ideal hunting-ground—one suggestive of *Herodii* and other interesting aquatic species—similar to that bird-paradise, the Camargue. A visit, however, soon dispels such flights of fancy; for in the place of reed-beds, of forest-like dimensions, of acres of sedges and tussocks, he encounters the handiwork of the ever-industrious Jacques Bonhomme. This worthy, with, no doubt, most praiseworthy perseverance, has pushed his vineyards and his patches of potatoes and onions to the very water's edge; and the spectacle of Jacques himself, nearly up to his middle in water, mowing the grasses, &c., that essay to grow in the shallows, gives a finishing touch to a scene which is certainly not ornithological. Indeed, these étangs are almost destitute of bird-life, the only species met with being here and there a Kentish Plover; while a pair of Blue-headed Yellow Wag-tails and of non-breeding Herons, and once the sight of a party of Pratincoles on some adjoining arable land, quite relieved the monotony of a ramble along their margins.

On the downs, which lie between the étangs and the sea, or which border the latter, bird-life is more abundant. Here the Short-toed Lark, the Kentish Plover, and the Stone Curlew were breeding in some numbers, and a small Harrier, probably Montagu's, was also observed. The marshy land which intersects these downs at and near the mouth of the river Tech, and of a small river south of it, afford breeding stations for the Great Reed Warbler, the Redshank, and other aquatic species. An interesting find on the shores of the Mediterranean was a nest of the Little Ringed Plover placed on the sand just above high-water mark, and within a few yards of the waves. Another nest was found on the downs, and not more than fifty yards from the sea. This species is, according to recognized authorities, rare at any season on the sea-coast of Central and Southern Europe.

A Carrion Crow was frequently seen hovering around the picturesque reed-tents of the fisher-folk which occur at in-

tervals along the coast, induced to remain, no doubt, by the abundance of offal which abounds about such settlements.

This concludes the sketch of our doings, for on the 1st of June, after having spent three weeks in these varied districts of the Pyrenees, we turned our faces homeward.

Sufficient particulars of each species observed, with notes carefully made as to its altitudinal range in the valleys and highlands of Andorra and Ariège, will be found in the list which concludes this paper. It may be well to remark that much care was bestowed on these altitudinal observations, which were made with an aneroid duly tested at Kew, and carefully checked, at intervals, with the official datum at Ax, upon which the heights are based.

As the result of the little expedition, we were able to add twenty species to the lists of Mr. Saunders and Mr. Backhouse. These are :—The Orphean Warbler, Garden Warbler, Wood Warbler, Melodious Warbler (*Hypolais polyglotta*), Great Reed Warbler, Golden Oriole, Red-backed Shrike, Spotted Flycatcher, Sand Martin, Citril Finch, Short-toed Lark, Jackdaw, Swift, Nightjar, Montagu's Harrier, Heron, Turtle Dove, Quail, Pratincole, and Little Ringed Plover. Some of these had no place in my friends' lists, because neither of them had, I believe, remained in the Pyrenees during the breeding-season, a fact which must give a little additional value to these notes.

In conclusion, a pleasant duty remains, namely, to thank Lord Lilford, Mr. Howard Saunders, and Mr. Backhouse, Jr., for the kindly interest they have taken in this paper, and M. Spuller, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of France, for granting special permits to shoot specimens during the close season.

1. TURDUS VISCIVORUS, L.

Andorra.—The Missel Thrush was common on the highlands, especially among the pines and firs on the mountain-sides; but was not observed below 5000 feet. It was breeding at 6350 feet, the greatest altitude at which the species was noted.

Upper Ariège.—Abundant, and nesting at Tarascon at 1572 feet, and in the pines on the mountain above Hospitalet at 6000 feet.

2. *TURDUS MUSICUS*, L.

Upper Ariège.—On the 13th of May we found a nest of the Song Thrush with five eggs in the beech-region above Ax at 4150 feet; and a bird of this species was observed in the pine-forest S.W. of Ax at 4500 feet three days later. These are interesting facts, since the bird is rare as a breeding-species in Southern Europe. M. Lacroix* says of it “ne niche pas” for all of the Departments of the French Pyrenees, and, regarding Ariège (p. 72), “On le voit arriver fin octobre, séjourne quelque peu et repasse en mars et avril.”

3. *TURDUS MERULA*, L.

Andorra.—The Blackbird was not common. Several nests were found near the town of Andorra, and the bird was also observed in the higher basin of the valley, between Encamp and Canillo, at 4800 feet.

Upper Ariège.—Common, but confined to the main valley, where it was observed as high as 2950 feet, in the woods on the mountain-side.

4. *CINCLUS ALBICOLLIS* (Vieill.).

Andorra.—The Pale-backed Dipper appears to be confined to the upper basins of the valley of the Valira, and was not observed below Escaldas, at 3800 feet. Above this height it is common to where the river issues from the snow at about 6000 feet.

Upper Ariège.—Fairly common on the rivers about Ax and on the upper streams to the snow-line.

5. *SAXICOLA CENANTHE* (L.).

Andorra.—The Wheatear was only observed in the high basin of the valley, above 5000 feet, and was not common. Several were seen on the patches free from snow at the summit of the Port de Saldeu, 8200 feet.

* ‘Catalogue Raisonné des Oiseaux observés dans les Pyrénées Françaises et les Régions Limitrophes.’ Par Adrien Lacroix, 1873-1875.

Upper Ariège.—Both uncommon and local, having been only noted in the upper valley of the Ariège about Merens, at 4000 feet, and at Hospitalet at 4800 feet.

6. *SAXICOLA ALBICOLLIS*, Vieill.

Perpignan.—A fine male Black-eared Chat was observed in a vineyard in the outskirts of the town on the 28th of May.

7. *PRATINCOLA RUBETRA* (L.).

Andorra.—The Whinchat was fairly common in meadows about Canillo and Saldeu, but not observed in the lower basins of the valley, though they offer abundant suitable habitats. It appeared to affect only the higher lands from 5000 to 6150 feet.

Upper Ariège.—Common above Ax (2600 feet) and in the valley of the Ariège to Hospitalet (4800 feet).

8. *PRATINCOLA RUBICOLA* (L.).

Mediterranean Region.—A Stonechat was seen on some waste land near the village of Saint Nazaire on the 28th of May.

9. *RUTICILLA TITYS* (Scopoli).

Andorra.—The Black Redstart is perhaps the commonest Pyrenean bird, and one that appears suited to the great variety of habitat afforded by the region. We noted its nest and young in the wall of a building in the town of Andorra. It affects also roadside walls, Pigeon-cots in the villages, the crags and boulders on the mountains, and the rocks that crop up from under the deep snow in the Port de Saldeu at 6500 feet.

Upper Ariège.—Equally common in the valleys, and in situations above 2700 feet.

10. *ERITHACUS RUBECULA* (L.).

Andorra.—The Redbreast was fairly common in the woodlands and in the pine-forests up to 5850 feet, where there was much snow.

Upper Ariège.—Common in the valleys and in the pine-forest up to 4900 feet.

11. DAULIAS LUSCINIA (L.).

Andorra.—The Nightingale was very common in all the woodlands in the lower basins of the valley from Escaldas to San Julia; nesting chiefly in the box shrubs which form the undergrowth. One was heard in a small patch of coppice in the valley below Canillo at 4550 feet.

Upper Ariège.—Abundant in all suitable habitats; but not affecting them to a greater elevation than 2850 feet.

12. SYLVIA CINEREA (Bechst.).

Andorra.—The Whitethroat was not uncommon about the town of Andorra, and one was shot on the roadside near Canillo at an elevation of 5000 feet.

Upper Ariège.—Was twice noted on the hillside above Ax, at from 2300 to 3200 feet.

13. SYLVIA ATRICAPILLA (Linn.).

Upper Ariège.—The Blackcap was very common in coppices and gardens at Tarascon and Ax, and occurs and nests up to 3200 feet. The nests found were in all instances placed in holly bushes.

Not observed in Andorra, and thought not to occur there.

14. SYLVIA ORPHEA, Temm.

Andorra.—A female Orphean Warbler was shot in the coppice between Andorra and Escaldos, on the 23rd of May.

15. SYLVIA HORTENSIS (Bechst.).

Andorra.—The Garden-Warbler was observed in some abundance among the willows at the river-side in the narrower portions of the valley above Eucamp, and from 4000 to 5500 feet in elevation. The bird was shot for identification.

16. REGULUS CRISTATUS, Koch.

Andorra.—Common in the pine-forests between 5000 and 6000 feet.

Upper Ariège.—The Goldcrest was also abundant in the high pine-forests above Ax.

The Firecrest was not observed, though we kept a sharp look out, and shot several Goldcrests on suspicion.

17. *PHYLLOSCOPUS RUFUS* (Bechst.).

Andorra.—The Chiffchaff was common in the woodlands, where it ranges as high as 4750 feet.

Upper Ariège.—Common in the woods about Tarascon and Ax. Occurs in the beech-region above Ax to 4150 feet.

18. *PHYLLOSCOPUS TROCHILUS* (Linn.).

Andorra.—The Willow Wren was only heard once or twice in the woodlands on the north side of the valley opposite the town of Andorra.

Upper Ariège.—Once heard—in the coppice on the west side of the valley at Ax.

This species is evidently a rare summer bird in the heart of the Pyrenees.

19. *PHYLLOSCOPUS SIBILATRIX* (Bechst.).

Andorra.—Common in the woodlands from San Julia to Andorra, and in the pine-forests at Escaldas and Canillo, where the Wood Wren ranges up to 5700 feet.

Upper Ariège.—Abundant in the woodlands about Ax and Tarascon. Not observed above 3000 feet, nor in the pine-forests.

Perpignan.—Common in the great trees forming the grand avenue in the town.

20. *HYPOLAIS POLYGLOTTA* (Vieill.).

Mediterranean Region.—A male was shot in an orchard at Argelès-sur-Mer on the 30th of May. The song of this bird much resembles that of the Sedge Warbler, though it is readily distinguishable.

21. *ACROCEPHALUS TURDOIDES* (Meyer).

Mediterranean Region.—The Great Reed Warbler was fairly abundant in the reed-beds which extend from the embouchure of the River Tech southwards to Argelès-sur-Mer. A nest with five eggs was found on the 29th of May.

22. *ACCENTOR MODULARIS* (Linn.).

Andorra.—The Hedge Accentor was fairly common, but not observed below 4000 feet, in the valley near Encamp. It was frequently noted in the pine-forests up to 5700 feet.

Upper Ariège.—Was observed above Ax at 2650 feet, and in the beech-region at 4600. Its extraordinary abundance about and above Hospitalet has already been alluded to, as has also its occurrence in the Port de Saldeu up to 7100 feet. This is decidedly an alpine species in the Pyrenees. M. Lacroix's statement (*op. cit.* p. 89) regarding its status in Ariège—"Se montre dans tout le plaine en hiver, ne niche pas,"—makes it evident that he was quite unaware of the bird's abundance in the higher Pyrenees in summer.

23. *ACCENTOR COLLARIS* (Scop.).

Andorra.—Common on rocky places free from snow on the mountain-side above Saldeu from 7300 feet and upwards. Here the Alpine Accentor was a tame bird, and allowed a very close approach, the males uttering an unpretending song as they squatted on the great boulders. A female shot showed, from the state of the ovary, that it was not nesting on the 25th of May.

This species was not observed on the French side, but the northern slopes were under deep snow at the elevations affording suitable habitats.

24. *ACREDULA ROSEA* (Blyth).

Upper Ariège.—All the specimens of the Long-tailed Titmouse observed by us belonged to the British form. It was a common bird in the woodlands about Ax, but was not observed to occur above 2700 feet. At Tarascon, on the 17th May, a pair of old birds were accompanied by their numerous family, then well able to fly. An old female was shot near Tarascon.

This bird was not observed in the upper valley or in Andorra.

25. *PARUS MAJOR*, L.

Andorra.—A solitary individual observed near the town of Andorra was the only Great Titmouse seen in the Republic, and hence it would seem to be an uncommon species there.

Upper Ariège.—Evidently an uncommon bird in the high valley of the Ariège, since it was only twice observed about Ax, once at 3350 feet. It was seen at Tarascon on the

single day we spent there, and is probably commoner in the lower valley.

Perpignan.—Was noted near the town on the 28th of May.

26. *PARUS ATER*, L.

Andorra.—The Coal Titmouse was abundant in the pine-forests, where it was observed from 4500 to 5700 feet.

Upper Ariège.—Observed in the neighbourhood of Ax, where its nest was found, and common in the pine-forests above that town to as high as 5000 feet.

Here, again, we have to take exception to M. Lacroix's statements. Regarding the whole French Pyrenees, he says (*op. cit.* p. 113), "ne niche pas," and as to Ariège, "se montre pendant l'hiver, repart au printemps. Ne sait pas si elle niche."

27. *PARUS PALUSTRIS*, L.

Upper Ariège.—The Marsh Titmouse is an uncommon bird in the Pyrenees; but we carefully identified it on three different occasions in the valley at Ax, once in the garden of our hotel.

M. Lacroix has this species only in the Appendix to his Catalogue (*op. cit.* p. 269), remarking "très rare, ne niche pas," for the Departments of Aude, Hérault, and Pyrénées-Orientales only, its occurrence in Ariège being unknown to him.

28. *PARUS CÆRULEUS*, L.

Andorra.—The Blue Titmouse is a local and uncommon species, and was only seen in the woodlands of the main valley south of Andorra, towards San Julia.

Upper Ariège.—Not uncommon in the gardens about Ax.

Perpignan.—Observed in the highly cultivated plain which surrounds the town.

29. *PARUS CRISTATUS* (L.).

Andorra.—The Crested Titmouse is common in the pine-forests, ranging from 4500 to 5700 feet.

30. *CERTHIA FAMILIARIS*, L.

Andorra.—The Creeper was observed in the woodlands

about Andorra, and in the pine-forest above Escaldas at 4100 feet.

Upper Ariège.—Observed in the hotel garden at Ax, in the woodlands, and in the high pine-forests up to 5000 feet.

31. TROGLODYTES PARVULUS, Koch.

Andorra.—The Wren was found to have a wide and varied range. It was common in the vicinity of the town of Andorra; by the path and river-side in the valley up to 5150 feet, and in the pine-forests among the snow as high as 6100 feet.

Upper Ariège.—The same remarks apply. It was observed at Tarascon at 1600 feet, at Ax, and on the mountain above Hospitalet at 6100 feet, where there was much snow.

32. MOTACILLA ALBA, L.

Andorra.—The White Wagtail was not numerously represented. It was observed close to the town of Andorra, in the meadows between Escaldas and Encamp; and a pair was evidently nesting by the river-side at Canillo at 5000 feet.

Upper Ariège.—Only one pair seen, in the upper valley of the River Ariège between Ax and Merens.

33. MOTACILLA MELANOPE, Pall.

Andorra.—The Grey Wagtail is probably not a common bird in Andorra, for we only saw it once (on the 19th of May) in the upper basin between Saldeu and Canillo at 5400 feet.

Upper Ariège.—Fairly common on the rivers and their tributaries from Hospitalet (4600 feet) to Tarascon (1500 feet).

34. MOTACILLA FLAVA, L.

Mediterranean Region.—A pair seen on the margin of the étang of Canet and St. Nazaire on the 28th of May.

35. MOTACILLA RAI (Bp.).

Perpignan.—The Yellow Wagtail was common in all the vineyards.

36. ANTHUS TRIVIALIS (L.).

Upper Ariège.—The Tree Pipit was seen on two occasions

only, on the mountain-side south-west of Ax, at 4000 and 4600 feet. It is evidently an uncommon bird in the Pyrenean region, and M. Lacroix says of it (*op. cit.* p. 123) for Ariège, "Passe en avril; quelques couples restent en été; passe de nouveau fin août et septembre."

Not observed in Andorra.

37. ANTHUS SPIOLETTA (L.).

Andorra.—The Water-Pipit is one of the commonest birds to be observed in the high Pyrenees. In Andorra we found it in the vicinity of water in spots ranging from 5000 to 8200 feet—on the summit of the Port de Saldeu, where it frequented bare patches in the great snow-field. Two nests with eggs were obtained above Canillo on the 24th of May.

Upper Ariège.—Abundant on the mountains about Ax, from 4300 feet; and in the upper valley of the Ariège, where it was observed abundantly above Hospitalet, even among the snow and rocks at 7100 feet. Above Ax, on the 13th of May, this bird was still seen, in parties, and evidently not breeding.

38. ORIOLUS GALBULA, L.

Upper Ariège.—Common in the orchards and woodlands at Tarascon, and in the woods at low elevations about Ax, where, however, it does not occur above 3000 feet.

The Golden Oriole was not observed in Andorra.

39. LANIUS COLLURIO, L.

Andorra.—An adult male Red-backed Shrike shot near the town of Andorra on the 20th of May was the only evidence we obtained of this bird's presence in the Republic.

Upper Ariège.—A male seen on the hedgerow of a mountain-meadow east of Ax, at 3500 feet, was the only one noted for the French Pyrenean region.

40. LANIUS POMERANUS, Sparman.

Upper Ariège.—An adult male Woodchat was observed just outside the town of Ax on the 18th of May.

41. MUSCICAPA GRISOLA, L.

Andorra.—Very common in the main basin of the valley

between Andorra and San Julia in the oak woods. The Spotted Flycatcher was not observed elsewhere, or in the valleys of the Upper Ariège.

42. *MUSCICAPA ATRICAPILLA*, L.

Andorra.—The Pied Flycatcher was seen and shot in the wooded portion of the valley between Andorra and Escaldas (3400 feet).

Upper Ariège.—A pair were observed in the woodlands above Ax at 2700 feet on the 14th of May, and were evidently nest-building. One was seen in the beech-region south of Ax at 4500 feet, and which was partially under snow. M. Lacroix says of this species in Ariège, "De passage au printemps et en automne, niche accidentellement."

43. *HIRUNDO RUSTICA*, L.

Upper Ariège.—Abundant about Tarascon, Ax, and in the upper valley of the Ariège to above Hospitalet and an elevation of 5000 feet.

The Swallow was entirely absent from Andorra.

Perpignan.—Common.

44. *CHELIDON URBICA* (L.).

Andorra.—Common throughout the valley; breeding on the faces of the great cliffs on the mountain-sides, and more rarely in the towns. Was nesting at 5300 feet on the cliff at Canillo; and was sailing over the snow at the summit of the Port de Saldeu, on the brilliant morning of the 19th of May.

Upper Ariège.—The Martin was very common in the valley from Tarascon to Hospitalet, and above to the Andorran frontier.

45. *COTILE RIPARIA* (L.).

Upper Ariège.—A solitary Sand Martin was distinctly seen at Ax on the 26th of May.

46. *COTILE RUPESTRIS*.

Andorra.—The nesting of the Crag Martin under the caves of the houses in the centre of the town of Andorra (3400 feet) has already been alluded to, as has also its

occurrence in the villages of Escaldas and Encamp, where it may also have been nesting. A few were seen on the cliffs above Andorra and Canillo (5500 feet).

Upper Ariège.—Was very abundant on the great cliff below Merens, where the many recesses in its face offered abundant nesting-sites.

47. *CARDUELIS ELEGANS*, Stephens.

Andorra.—The Goldfinch was an extremely common bird about the town of Andorra, where several of its nests were obtained. One was seen in a garden at Encamp higher up the valley at 4100 feet, but not above.

Upper Ariège.—Common in gardens about Ax and Tarascon, but entirely confined to the lower ground, and not observed in the higher valleys.

Perpignan.—Abundant in vineyards and gardens around the town.

48. *CHRYSOMITRIS CITRINELLA* (L.).

Andorra.—The Citril Finch was fairly numerous amongst the silver firs scattered over the mountain-side above Escaldas. Here they were flying about in small parties, at an elevation of from 5300 to 6000 feet, and were equally noisy as they were restless and shy. So wary were they that it was with some difficulty we obtained a specimen—an adult male. A pair was also observed and heard in the pines above Canillo, at 6000 feet, on the 24th of May.

This appears to be an extremely restless bird, first here and then far away, alighting on the pines for a moment, and then off again, to return in a few minutes. The note is metallic in tone and very singular, reminding one of the sound produced by those children's toys which have a musical accompaniment produced by a spiked wheel acting upon a tongue of thin metal.

We did not observe it in Ariège; but M. Lacroix says (*op. cit.* p. 144):—"Quelques rares couples se reproduisent sur les montagnes de ce département."

49. *SERINUS HORTULANUS*, Koch.

Andorra.—The active little Serin Finch was extremely

common in the vicinity of the towns of Andorra, Encamp, and Canillo. It was also heard singing among the pine-trees on the mountain above Canillo at 6000 feet.

Upper Ariège.—Very common in gardens and orchards at Tarascon. Less common at Ax, where we found the nest and eggs in a juniper-bush on the mountain-side at 2900 feet.

Perpignan District.—Very common.

50. *LIGURINUS CHLORIS* (L.).

Upper Ariège.—The Greenfinch was common at Tarascon and Ax, but confined to the valley and the vicinity of the towns.

This bird was not observed in the valley of Andorra.

Perpignan District.—Common.

51. *PASSER DOMESTICUS* (L.).

Andorra.—The Sparrow is only a citizen of Andorra, where a few affect the houses, being particularly partial to the august but dilapidated Casa de Valle, or parliament-house of the Republic, and which, it is thought, not inappropriately, bears the motto *Virtus unita fortior*!

Upper Ariège.—Not uncommon at Tarascon; but at Ax there are very few in the town, and it was not observed elsewhere.

Perpignan District.—Common.

52. *PASSER MONTANUS* (L.).

Perpignan.—Observed in the neighbourhood of the town.

53. *FRINGILLA CÆLEBS*, L.

Andorra.—Common throughout the valley and in the pine-forests up to 5500 feet.

Upper Ariège.—The Chaffinch was also abundant about Ax and up to the head of the valley at Hospitalet (4630 feet). In the pine-forests above Ax it was noted up to 5500 feet.

54. *LINOTA CANNABINA* (L.).

Andorra.—The Linnet was observed in the vicinity of the town of Andorra, was abundant on the cultivated lands about Canillo (5100 feet), where we saw some brilliantly-

tinted males, and was seen on both our visits to Saldeu at 6000 feet.

Upper Ariège.—Not common, and only observed above Ax at 3150 feet, and at Hospitalet, near to the headwaters of the Ariège, at 4550 feet.

Perpignan District.—Common.

55. *PYRRHULA EUROPEA*, Vieill.

Upper Ariège.—The Bullfinch was observed at Tarascon and in the hotel garden at Ax. In the pine-forest above the latter town a male was noted at 4650 feet.

This bird was not observed in the Valley of Andorra.

56. *LOXIA CURVIROSTRA*, L.

Andorra.—An adult female and bird of the year in full plumage were shot in the pine-forest on the mountain above Escaldas on the 21st of May.

57. *EMBERIZA MILIARIA*, L.

Perpignan District.—The Corn Bunting is a common bird in the lowland district.

58. *EMBERIZA CITRINELLA*, L.

Andorra.—The Yellow Bunting was only observed in the upper basin of the River Valira, ranging in the valley from Canillo (5100 feet) to Saldeu (6000 feet).

Upper Ariège.—One or two were seen at Ax; but here also it was most numerous in the uppermost portion of the valley about Hospitalet (4650 feet).

59. *EMBERIZA CIRCUS*, L.

Andorra.—A female was shot, and a nest with three eggs found, in the wood north of Andorra on the 23rd of May.

60. *EMBERIZA CIA*, L.

Andorra.—The Meadow Bunting was common in the valley from Andorra (3400 feet) to Canillo (5100 feet).

Upper Ariège.—Common above Ax at 2900 feet, and throughout the upper valley at Hospitalet to 4650 feet.

61. *ALAUDA ARVENSIS*, L.

Andorra.—Considering that the Sky Lark is so common in

the plains at the base of the foot-hills of the Pyrenees, yet entirely absent from the valleys of Andorra and the Upper Ariège, its occurrence on the great snow-fields at the summit of the Col de Saldeu (8200 feet) was somewhat remarkable. Here a pair were seen, of which the male was singing gaily, on the 19th of May; but on the 26th two birds, probably the same pair, were seen about 1000 feet lower—perhaps driven down by the heavy snow which was falling on that day.

M. Lacroix (*op. cit.* p. 127) remarks for Ariège, “Arrive dans les plaines de ce département en octobre, repart en avril, ne niche pas.”

Perpignan District.—Very common.

62. *ALAUDA CRISTATA*, L.

Perpignan District.—The Crested Lark was not uncommon on arable land.

63. *CALANDRELLA BRACHYDACTYLA* (Leisl.).

Mediterranean District.—The Short-toed Lark was nesting in numbers on the downs, over which the male hovers, uttering his short warbling song. We found many nests placed at the foot of the thin tufts of grass, and noted concerning them that the birds showed a decided predilection for white material for their lining. Some were lined with white wool, others with thistle-down, much-bleached grasses, and one had a bit of white sail-cloth among the other materials.

64. *MELANOCORYPHA CALANDRA* (L.).

Mediterranean Region.—A few Calandra Larks were seen on the meadows and downs bordering the sea; but it was not a common bird.

65. *PYRRHOCORAX ALPINUS*, Koch.

Andorra.—Alpine Choughs were numerous on the cliff at Camillo, and were satisfactorily identified. Choughs were also seen on the cliffs north of the town of Andorra, but never under conditions favourable for their specific determination.

[*Upper Ariège*.—A Chough was very numerous on the

cliff at Tarascon, and a few were observed on that below Merens; but the distances in both cases rendered it impossible to determine the species.]

66. *GARRULUS GLANDARIUS* (L.).

Andorra.—Fairly common throughout the valley, and although not observed in the mountain-forests the Jay occurs as high as 5400 feet between Canillo and Saldeu.

Upper Ariège.—Very common about Tarascon and Ax, and occurs in the higher valley to near Hospitalet, at 4000 feet. This bird was not seen in the pine-forests, though it was noted in the beech-region above Ax at 4650 feet.

67. *PICA RUSTICA* (Scop.).

Upper Ariège.—The Magpie is a species of which the Pyrenean distribution thins out in this particular district at Ax, where two pairs only were observed—one at 2500 feet.

Perpignan District.—Fairly common.

68. *CORVUS MONEDULA*, Linn.

Upper Ariège.—The Jackdaw is a *rara avis* in the Pyrenees in the breeding-season, and M. Lacroix (*op. cit.* p. 61) says of it, for the range generally, “De passage en hiver, en compagnie des espèces précédentes [Rook, Carrion and Grey Crows] avec lesquels il forme de grandes bandes; nous quitte vers le 15 mars, ne niche pas.” Nor was the bird observed by Mr. Saunders or Mr. Backhouse. We were, however, fortunate enough to observe it at Ussat-les-Bains, a little below Ax, on the 17th of May, when one flew so close to us as to render its identification a matter of ease and certainty.

69. *CORVUS CORONE*, Linn.

Andorra.—A pair of Carrion Crows were observed in the pine-forest above Escaldas at 4800 feet on the 20th of May, which, from their behaviour, had evidently a nest close by. These were the only ones seen in the Republic.

Upper Ariège.—A pair had also taken up their quarters in the pine-forest west of Ax, where we saw them at 4600 feet on the 13th of May, when they were very noisy at our intrusion. M. Lacroix says (*op. cit.* p. 58) that it nests accidentally in Ariège.

Mediterranean Region.—One was observed hanging about the reed huts of the fishermen on the shore at Argelès-sur-Mer, evidently attracted by the offal afforded by such a community.

70. *CORVUS CORAX*, L.

Andorra.—The Raven was only once identified, namely, on the mountains south of Canillo, at 6000 feet, where it was both seen and heard on the 23rd of May.

71. *CYPSELUS APUS* (L.).

Upper Ariège.—The Swift does not appear to penetrate into the uppermost valleys of the Pyrenees; but it was very common at Ax.

It was not seen in, and is believed to be entirely absent from, Andorra.

Perpignan District.—Common.

72. *CAPRIMULGUS EUROPÆUS*, L.

Andorra.—The Nightjar was twice observed in the environs of the town of Andorra (3400 feet).

Upper Ariège.—Observed on rough ground on the mountain-side above the river Oriège, at 3000 feet, on the 18th of May.

73. *GECCUS VIRIDIS* (L.).

Andorra.—The Green Woodpecker was fairly common in the woodlands of the main basin of the valley about Andorra, San Julia, and Escaldas.

Upper Ariège.—Common in lower deciduous woods on the mountain-sides above Ax; but was not observed to range higher than 3000 feet.

74. *LYNX TORQUILLA*, L.

Upper Ariège.—The Wryneck was seen and heard on two occasions in the vicinity of Ax—once on the mountain-side at 3200 feet.

75. *UPUPE EPOPS*, L.

Mediterranean Region.—The Hoopoe was observed among the trees on an island near the embouchure of the small river at Argelès-sur-Mer on the 29th of May.

76. CUCULUS CANORUS, L.

Andorra.—Not common, a few being observed in the pine-forest above Escaldas from 5000 to 5800 feet. A Cuckoo was also seen in the valley at Canillo, 5100 feet.

Upper Ariège.—Fairly common in the valley at Ax, and ranges up to 5000 feet in the pines among the snow.

77. SYRNIUM ALUCO (L.).

Upper Ariège.—A Tawny Owl was put out of her nesting-hole (containing three eggs) in a large beech on the mountain west at Ax, at 4600 feet, on the 13th of May.

78. SCOPS GIU (Scop.).

Andorra.—The unmistakable note of a Scops Owl was heard at Escaldas on the evening of the 21st of May.

Upper Ariège.—A pair of these birds had taken up their summer residence in the tall beech-trees which form a remarkable feature in the town of Ax, whence they paid visits to our hotel garden in pursuit of insects. A female, shot on the 25th, had the crop full of insect-remains, chiefly coleopterous, among which those of a *Melolontha* predominated. At Tarascon one was observed sitting in a poplar by the river-side. At first it gazed at us in surprise; but imagining that it had escaped detection, it drew itself up into almost rod-like dimensions, and pressed its body as close as possible against the bole of the tree, hoping in this way to remain unseen.

79. CIRCUS ÆRUGINOSUS (L.).

Mediterranean Region.—Once or twice the Marsh Harrier was seen hunting over the downs near to the marshy ground between the embouchures of the Tech and the small river south of it.

80. CIRCUS CINERACEUS (Mont.).

A pair of small Harriers was seen on the downs, adjoining the sea, at Canet, on the 31st of May, the female being seen at fairly close quarters. At the time they were considered to be Montagu's Harriers, and this was probably the case; though M. Lacroix says of the species, "ne niche pas," while of *Circus swainsoni*, a very unlikely species to meet with so far west, this author remarks "niche accidentellement."

81. *AQUILA CHRYSÆTUS* (Linn.).

Upper Ariège.—When resting in the pine-forest above Ax, on the 16th of May, a Golden Eagle, hotly pursued by a Peregrine, passed within gunshot, and was satisfactorily identified.

Eagles and other large Accipitres were often seen, both in the Upper Ariège and Andorra; but always at great elevations. Their haunts were quite inaccessible at the date of our visit, owing to the snow, which yet lay on the higher portions of the mountains as deep as in the winter time.

82. *FALCO PEREGRINUS*, Tunstall.

Andorra.—A Peregrine was seen in the pine-forest above Escaldas in pursuit of a Kestrel.

Upper Ariège.—This species has already been alluded to as seen mobbing a Golden Eagle over the pine-forest above Ax.

83. *FALCO TINNUNCULUS*, L.

Andorra.—The Kestrel was common, and nesting on all the crags and cliffs. It was noted up to 6000 feet.

Upper Ariège.—The same remarks apply. The bird was observed from Tarascon to above Hospitalet (5500 feet). In the Pyrenees, so far as our observations went, the Kestrel was a rock-loving species.

Falcons were occasionally seen about the numerous suitable habitats afforded by the valleys of Andorra and Upper Ariège; but we were unable to identify more than the Peregrine and the Kestrel.

84. *ARDEA CINEREA*, L.

Mediterranean Region.—A pair of Herons was seen flying over the étang of Canet and St. Nazaire on the 28th of May.

85. *COLUMBA PALUMBUS*, L.

Upper Ariège.—The Ring Dove is not uncommon in the pine-forests west of Ax, where it was observed between 4600 and 5000 feet, and heard cooing contentedly among the trees over a heavy carpet of snow. This is another Pyrenean rarity in the breeding-season; for M. Lacroix says (*op. cit.* p. 168) of this species, for the range generally, “ne niche pas,” and

for Ariège, "Un passage considérable a lieu dans les cols des Pyrénées de ce département en octobre et novembre."

86. *TURTUR COMMUNIS*, Selby.

Andorra.—A pair of birds seen in the woodlands between Andorra and Escaldas were thought to be Turtle Doves.

Upper Ariège.—A pair were observed several times amongst the coppice-growth, at 2700 feet, on the mountain-side of the valley of the Oriège, above Ax.

Mediterranean Region.—Several were seen among the trees on the island near the embouchure of the small river north of Argelès-sur-Mer.

87. *COTURNIX COMMUNIS*, Bonnat.

Mediterranean Region.—The note of the Quail was heard on some arable land adjoining the downs at Argelès-sur-Mer on the 29th of May.

88. *LAGOPUS MUTUS*, Leach.

Andorra.—Ptarmigan were heard near at hand on the snows of the Port de Saldu between 7350 and 8450 feet during the storm on the 25th of May.

89. *ÆDIDNEMUS SCOLOPAX* (S. G. Gmel.).

Mediterranean Region.—The Stone Curlew was fairly common, and nesting on all the downs bordering the Mediterranean between Canet and Argelès-sur-Mer.

90. *GLAREOLA PRATINCOLA*, Linn.

Mediterranean Region.—On the 28th of May eight Pratincoles were observed on a moist stony patch on the west side of the étang of Canet and St. Nazaire, and were very confiding, allowing a close inspection to be made of them.

91. *ÆGIALITIS CANTIANA* (Lath.).

Mediterranean Region.—The Kentish Plover was common on the coast and the contiguous downs. Its nests were frequent on the beach just above high-water mark, and on the downs, where both eggs and young birds were found.

M. Lacroix was evidently unaware of its frequency in the Pyrénées-Orientales, for he says (*op. cit.* p. 185), "De passage régulier en avril, mai, fin août et septembre; quelques

rare couples restent l'été sur les côtes maritimes de ce département et s'y reproduisent."

92. *ÆGIALITIS CURONICA* (Gmel.).

Mediterranean Region.—The Little Ringed Plover is probably fairly common, for we found two nests on the 29th and 30th of May, respectively, at Argelès-sur-Mer. One of these was on the sandy downs, a little more than one hundred yards from the sea, and contained four eggs. The second nest was a hollow in the sand, just above high-water mark, on the shore of the Mediterranean.

The breeding of this species on the shores of the Mediterranean is interesting, and would seem to be quite unusual; since the standard authorities usually consulted in matters connected with the breeding of our birds do not allude to its nesting in the vicinity of the sea, and, indeed, remark upon its general rarity on the coast at all seasons. It appears to nest, however, on the sea-board at or near the northern limit of its summer range in Europe.

93. *TRINGOIDES HYPOLEUCUS* (Linn.).

Andorra.—The river and streams of Andorra are such brimful, boiling torrents during the nesting-season that the almost entire absence of the Sandpiper is not a matter for surprise. We observed a bird of this species, however, on the only suitable habitat seen—a large patch of shingle on the river-side, just below the village of Encamp, at 4100 feet, on the 23rd of May.

Upper Ariège.—Sandpipers were noted on the river just below Ax and at Tarascon, and were no doubt breeding or about to breed. M. Lacroix says that it nests accidentally in Ariège, which can scarcely be a correct statement.

94. *TOTANUS CALIDRIS* (Linn.).

Mediterranean Region.—Several Redshanks were observed in the marshy tracts near the embouchures of the rivers. M. Lacroix remarks on this species for the Pyrénées-Orientales, "De passage en août, septembre, avril et mai, quelques rares couples restent en été."